REMARKS

The Notice alleges that the Summary of the Claimed Subject Matter fails to explicitly

identify and map each independent claim to a corresponding page and line number in the

specification. Accordingly, Applicants submit the following amended Summary pursuant to 37

C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v) and M.P.E.P. §1205.03(B). In light of the amended Summary, Applicants

respectfully request that the Appeal process be permitted to continue.

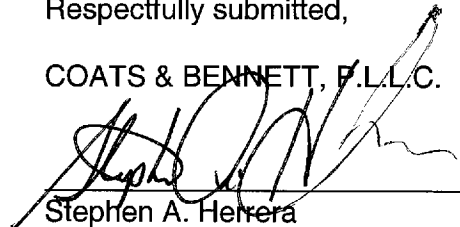## (5) SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention relates to a time-stamping protocol for time-stamping digital

documents so that the time-stamped document can later be verified. The claimed invention

presumes the existence of a trusted outside agency (TSA). *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 4, ll. 1-5.

Claim 13, the sole rejected independent claim, is directed to a computer-implemented

method for time stamping a digital document. In claim 13, a document originator creates a time

stamp receipt by combining a document or identifying data associated with the document (e.g.,

a unique hash value), and a time indication. Optionally, the time stamp receipt may also include

data such as an identification number associated with the document originator and a sequence

number. *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 6, ln. 10 – pg. 7, ln. 2. After creating the time stamp receipt, the

document originator forwards the time stamp receipt to TSA for validation. *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 7, ll.

3-5. Upon receipt, the TSA computes an age value for the time stamp receipt by determining a

difference between the time indication included in the time stamp receipt and a current time

obtained from a trusted clock. *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 7, ll. 15-20. If the computed age value falls

within a specified range of the current date and time, the TSA cryptographically binds the time

stamp receipt using, for example, a private key. *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 7, ln. 20 – pg. 8, ln. 13. A copy

of the bound time stamp receipt is then sent to the document originator, and may later be used by the public to verify the document. *E.g., Spec.*, pg. 8, ll. 13-17.

Respectfully submitted,

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